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(54) Title: A NOVEL CELL SURFACE RECEPTOR FOR HIV RETROVIRUSES, THERAPEUTIC AND DIAGNOSTIC USES

### (57) Abstract

The present invention pertains to a novel protein complex receptor for HIV retroviruses, namely the "V3 loop HIV receptor", which consists in the association of three proteins named P95/nucleolin, P40/PHAPII and P30/PHAPI. The invention also concerns peptidic or non peptidic molecules having the ability to alter and/or prevent the binding of the said novel HIV receptor to the HIV retrovirus, specifically to the gp120 glycoprotein of said HIV retrovirus. The invention is also directed to pharmaceutical and diagnostic compositions containing an effective amount of the molecules altering and/or preventing the binding of the HIV retrovirus to the novel HIV receptor as well as to therapeutic or diagnostic methods using such pharmaceutical or diagnostic composition. The invention also deals with methods of screening new active molecules having the ability to alter and/or prevent the binding of the said novel HIV receptor to the HIV retrovirus, specifically to the gp120 glycoprotein of said HIV retrovirus. Finally, the invention is directed to methods of screening genetic defects in the expression of P95/nucleolin, P40/PHAPII or P30/PHAPI in HIV resistant individuals as well as to specific diagnostic means useful to detect such genetic defects.

